

Docket No. F-8177

Ser. No. 10/816,017

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending and the Examiner has rejected each of the claims under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abell et al (USPN 5405319) as modified by Morris (USPN 3075526) where the Examiner asserts that Abell teaches each recited limitation except for the injection nozzle.

Applicant has cancelled the original claims and provides new Claim 5 herein which distinguished over the art as follows.

The Examiner has stated in the final rejection, the nozzle for injecting the liquid through the anus, the connection of the nozzle, the pump and the hose, and the hand operation of the irrigator are known in the art. However, the portable irrigator of the present invention is characterized in that the portable irrigator has the liquid supplying body provided with the entrance/exit passage for supplying the liquid sucked through the suction hose to the injection nozzle, the suction hose is integrally connected to the flange, disposed at the rear end of the body, the nozzle including a plurality of holes is connected to the front end of the body in a spiral manner such that the contaminated or stained nozzle can be replaced with a new one, and the air pump in the form of a handle of a shot gun for receiving and discharging the liquid is installed at the lower side of the body.

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The above features of the present invention are not disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,075,526 to Morris (the cited reference 1) and U.S. Patent No. 5,405,319 to Abell (the cited reference 2), or are not obvious from the cited references 1 and 2.

Hereinafter, the main features of the present invention will be compared with the cited references 1 and 2.

As defined in New Claim 5, the first feature of the present invention is that the suction hose, the injection nozzle, and the air pump are rigidly connected to the liquid supplying body (6) and the entrance/exit passage (10) is formed in the liquid supplying body (6) so that the sucked liquid is supplied only to the injection nozzle (5). However, the cited reference 1 discloses an anal irrigator, in which just plain water or an irrigating solution filling a bag (4) is supplied directly to a nozzle (2) through a hose (5), but the anal irrigator of the cited reference 1 does not have the liquid supplying body (6), and the cited reference 2 discloses an evacuation apparatus, in which water in a water bag (12) is supplied to a rear end portion (27') of a rectal insertion tube or speculum (22) by gravity through a hose (17) and sufficiently fills the colon of a patient through an elongated tubular body (27) and diametrically opposed eyelets (29), but the evacuation apparatus of the cited reference 2 differs from the structure of the present invention, in which the suction hose, the injection nozzle, and the air pump are rigidly connected centering on the

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entrance/exit passage (10), and differs from the structure of the present invention, in which the entrance/exit passage (10) is communicated with a supplying passage (9) at the side of the suction hose (3) in a straight line and a passage of the air pump (4) for accelerating the supply of the liquid is connected between the entrance/exit passage (10) and the supplying passage (9). In the cited reference 2, the rear end portion (27') of the insertion tube (22) serves as a simple pipe for passing water in both directions, and a squeeze bulb denoted by reference number 42 serves to open and close valves 16 and 32.

Accordingly, the present invention is structurally and functionally different from the cited reference 2 in terms of the first feature, i.e., the liquid supplying body (6).

As defined in New Claim 5, the second feature of the present invention is that the suction hose is firmly connected to the flange of the liquid supplying body (6) (the separation of the suction hose from the flange is impossible without any artificial manipulation) and the injection nozzle including a plurality of holes disposed in a radial direction is connected to the connecting member of the body in a spiral manner such that the nozzle can be replaced with a new one. In the cited reference 1, as shown in FIG. 1, the hose (5) is simply inserted into the nozzle (2) and thus may be easily separated from the nozzle (2) by mistake, and the nozzle (2) is integrally

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formed with and extended through the front portion of an anal cup (1) in the direction of the anus of a person (the direction is important) and thus cannot be replaced with a new one. Accordingly, the present invention is structurally, functionally and practically different from the cited reference 1.

In the cited reference 2, ends of the hose (17) are simply inserted into an outlet port 18 of the water bag (12) and an inlet port (25) of the rear end portion (27'), the elongated tubular body (27) tapers rearwardly so as to be properly inserted into the anus of a patient and extends toward the end portion (27') of the tube (22), and the end portion (27') includes a valve member (32). Accordingly, the structure of the cited reference 2 is not replaced with a new one like the injection nozzle of the present invention. Particularly, the formation of the diametrically opposed cyelets (29) at the tapered end portion is obviously different from the structure of the nozzle having the plurality of holes disposed in a radial direction of the present invention.

Finally, as defined in New Claim 5, the third feature of the present invention is that the air pump for receiving the liquid sucked through the suction hose and discharging the liquid to the injection nozzle is installed at the lower portion of the liquid supplying body (6). The cited reference 1 does not disclose an air pump and the amount of the water or the irrigating solution filling the bag (4) is controlled only

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by a clamp (7). Further, the cited reference 2 does not disclose any air pump having the same function and structure. In the cited reference 2, the squeeze bulb (42), which is connected to the hose (17) through an air pressure line (38) and branches (39 and 40), serves to open and close the valves (16 and 32) of the hose (17), but does not receive and discharge a liquid, as stated in the present invention.

In conclusion, the first to third features of the present invention are not disclosed in the cited references 1 and 2, and are not apparent to those skilled in the art. Further, the portable irrigator of the present invention is handy to carry, whereas the anal irrigator of the cited reference 1 can be carried but is inconveniently carried on a wearer's shoulder. Further, the evacuation apparatus of the cited reference 2 cannot be carried but is fixedly used in hospitals, is not sanitary due to use of the anal cup (1) and alternate supply of the irrigating solution and the discharged solution through one tube (22), and causes a difficulty in replacing the nozzle with a new one even though the nozzle is inserted into the anus of a patient. Accordingly, since Claim 5 of the present invention are considered as having various advantageous and technical novelty in that the portable irrigator is handy to carry and easily operable by hand and the nozzle is easily replaced with a new one, compared to the cited references 1 and 2, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claim 5 is novel over cited references 1 and 2.

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Applicant respectfully requests a one month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. The fee of \$60.00 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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